

OCT 20 2004

PATENT
Docket No. 150.01110101IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Uhlenbrock et al.) Group Art Unit: 2822
Serial No.: 10/032,357) Examiner: Maria Guerrero
Confirmation No.: 4965)
Filed: December 21, 2001)
For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF GROUP VIII METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING OXIDIZING GASES

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Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Mail Stop Amendment
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By: Ann M. Mueting
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Oct. 20, 2004
Date

Signature: Sarah E. Olson

Name: Sarah E. Olson

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Serial No.:	10/032,357)	Examiner:	Maria Guerrero	
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND SPECIES ELECTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed September 22, 2004, with respect to the species election, Applicants elect, with traverse, Species II, planarizing using an oxidizing gas. All currently pending claims recite the use of an oxidizing gas.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement. It is respectfully submitted that the inventions as claimed can be readily evaluated in one search without placing undue burden on the Examiner. That is, all the claims are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the others.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue examination of any non-elected claims in continuation or divisional applications.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 20th day of October, 2004, at 4:36pm (Central Time).

[Signature]
Name: Sara E. Olson

Respectfully submitted for
Uhlenbrock et al.
By
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